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## Viewing cable 04THEHAGUE1201, A BIG JOB AHEAD FOR NEW DUTCH COUNTERTERRORIST

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### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

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### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#04THEHAGUE1201**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
04THEHAGUE1201	2004-05-14 16:51	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy The Hague

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2011/01/18/amerikanen-de-aivd-keek-neer-op-nctb/>

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 THE HAGUE 001201

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/12/2014

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [NL](#)

SUBJECT: A BIG JOB AHEAD FOR NEW DUTCH COUNTERTERRORIST  
COORDINATOR

REF: THE HAGUE 1167

Classified By: ANDREW MANN, HEAD OF GLOBAL ISSUES.  
REASONS: 1.5 (b & d).

**11.** (C) SUMMARY: A highly respected bureaucrat, Tjibbe Joustra, recently assigned to the new Dutch position of counterterrorism (CT) coordinator, is remarkably candid about the flaws he sees in the Dutch CT efforts (e.g., lack of inter-agency coordination; lack of action). He has a broad mandate to review existing procedures/operations and make recommendations for improvements. Although focused on internal coordination and reform, he is open to working with the U.S. and welcomes our offers of assistance. END SUMMARY.

**12.** (SBU) DCM and Global Issues officer met May 11 with Mr. Joustra, newly named CT coordinator for the Netherlands (April 27 - reftel). Admitting he was new to CT and law enforcement issues, Joustra pointed out his 14 years of experience in crisis management as Secretary General of the Agriculture Ministry, handling mad cow scares, avian flu epidemics and fallout from the Chernobyl explosion. He also stressed his management experience in a subsequent assignment consolidating the government's six social security programs into one (30 billion Euros). He said security concerns were not an abstraction for him, but something he had been personally involved with for many years in his working life. It was important to protect society's infrastructure and that was why he was anxious to take up these new responsibilities.

**13.** (C) Joustra said he immediately noticed systematic problems from the fact CT policy and implementation in the Netherlands were shared by the Ministers of Justice (Donner) and Interior (Remkes). As a bureaucrat, he recognizes this is a very difficult situation which hampers results. There is little coordination between the Ministers, their Secretaries General and Directors General. He said he reports first to Minister

Donner, who was actively engaged, and then consults with Remkes, who appears much less interested. Joustra chairs the Joint Committee on Counterterrorism, a moribund inter-agency coordinating group, which he expects to meet monthly in the future. He also staffs the Council of Ministers, chaired by the Prime Minister, in discussions on CT issues.

14. (SBU) Joustra said his mandate is to:

- try to coordinate the CT activities of service and policy agencies and Ministries in a better way;
- evaluate the whole Dutch CT system - policy and decision-making and implementation - and draft a new system which is more efficient and transparent;
- increase public awareness of the threat and risk of terrorism (he said the government had "hardly any plans on how the public should react to a CT crisis");
- look at existing and planned CT legislation, determine whose lead is supposed to be followed (national vs. provincial vs. municipal), and what additional measures are needed;
- coordinate with international CT efforts (he downplayed the importance of this aspect of his job)

He has deliberately kept his staff small (2 assistants and a secretary), preferring not to build a rival bureaucracy but to rely instead upon the government officials who are currently tasked with CT responsibilities. His tenure runs through the end of the year.

15. (C) Two recent incidents brought home to Joustra the need for his work. Donner, Remkes, their Secretaries General and senior CT officials and Joustra met jointly with AIVD, the intelligence service, for the first time last week. Joustra noted immediately the jurisdictional problems in getting information checked and shared between AIVD and the Ministries and among the Ministries themselves. When AIVD said the security situation in the Netherlands had deteriorated somewhat recently, Joustra asked "what do we do" and no one knew what measures the government should take. Joustra also said he asked his staff to compile a list of all of the CT schemes the government had announced and what had been done to implement them. The list of schemes ran more than 40 pages, while only three pages of them were marked with action taken. Joustra said the system has to become simpler and more effective.

16. (C) The DCM thanked Joustra for taking the time to meet with him so soon after his appointment. Joustra noted the DCM was the first foreign visitor he had received. The DCM offered Joustra whatever assistance the U.S. could provide, from information sharing to exchange of best practices to bringing in experts to setting up meetings, to facilitate his job. Joustra said he would like to continue reviewing the situation first, but promised to meet again within 3-4 weeks to renew the discussion. The DCM noted U.S. frustration with the compartmentalization of CT efforts within the Dutch government with the lack of information sharing between offices. He also said the Dutch failed to see the link between criminal activity and terrorism - illicit money transfers, fraudulent documents, etc., and suggested the Dutch needed to look more broadly at the issue/threat of terrorism. DCM also described U.S. concerns about cross-border mobility facilitators/"breeding grounds" in the Netherlands.

17. (C) Joustra acknowledged DCM's description of Dutch stovepiping. He also expressed interest in the American color-coded warning system, asking about its strengths and weaknesses. He recognized the need to make a real conversion from a "threat-specific" response system to risk management.

18. (C) COMMENT: Joustra clearly has a big job ahead of him. Unlike many Dutch officials, he did not hide behind the need for "consensus," in the hour plus meeting. He noted the need to bring the appropriate people together to solve a problem and zeroed in on the need to ACT on CT information. Justice Minister Donner may have found the right person, a skilled bureaucrat experienced in crisis management and organizations, to take a fresh look at Dutch CT efforts and suggest reform. We are also encouraged by his openness to the U.S. He claimed he did not want to author just another blue ribbon panel report. Nonetheless, engineering real, effective change in the Dutch CT policies and system is a formidable task. END COMMENT.

19. (SBU) Biographic Information:

Tjibbe Herman Jan Joustra

DPOB: February 6, 1951 in Hengelo, Gelderland Province, the Netherlands

Married

Fluent in English

Studied law at Groningen University (his thesis was on American antitrust law), graduating in 1975

1975-2001 Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Fisheries

- Director of Legal and Managerial Affairs/Deputy Secretary General (1983-1987)
- Secretary General (1987-2001) (the senior most bureaucrat in a Ministry - his SG colleagues speak very highly of him)(USDA notes that he did not come up through the Ministry on the policy, trade or international affairs side of the house)

2002-2004 Organization for the Implementation of Workers' Insurance (UWV) (responsible for merging the government's six social security/pension schemes into one, with more than 30 billion Euros in assets; he resigned in a dispute with the Social Affairs Minister who criticized the costs of Joustra's office renovations)

2004 Chair of the Joint Committee on Counterterrorism/National CT Coordinator

SOBEL